THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Regarding Hike in Prices by Polyster Staple Fibre Manufacturers

4164. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Polyester Staple Fibre Manufacturers have taken a decision to hike in the prices of their end product by another Rs. 5 per Kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any protest against the decision of the PSF Units, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Since there is no price control in the petrochemical sector, market forces and demand-supply determine the prices.

Cases with CBI regarding payment of subsidy to Fertilizer Units

4165. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has detected certain cases where subsidy have been paid, although the unit did not exist or had not produced fertilizer for which subsidy was paid by F. I. C. C.;

(b) what are the details of these cases, when did they occur and whether responsibility of concerned bureaucrats have been fixed; and

(c) what steps have been taken to revamp F. I. C. C. and remove Director (Cost) and the person responsibile for increase in subsidy on account of negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) During the year 1988, CBI registered a case against M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd., Chheratah, Amritsar and 33 other persons for investigation into the payment to the said firm of subsidy amounting to Rs. 3,38,45,939 for the period from Dec., 1980 to April, 1987 on the basis of bogus documents.

The CBI report which has since been finalised, has recommended prosecution of two private firms viz. M/s. Punjab Fertilizer & Pesticide Industries and M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd. of Chheratah, Amritsar and 22 others including 17 public servants. It has also recommended initiation of regular departmental action against 9 other officials.

(c) It has been decided to conduct a study of the working of the Office of FICC through a reputed professional institute.

Expenditure on Advertisement by Multinational Drug Companies

4166. SHRI KRISHANL LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinationals, producing drugs, spend a lot on the advertisement of their products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is publicity grant given to IDPL and other organizations to publicise their products;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is much less sales of products from public sector enterprises as compared to private sector; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to issue guidelines for both public sector undertakings and private sector companies in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In the case of drugs under price control, post-manufacturing expenses, which include expenditure on promotional expenses, are allowed while fixing the prices as provided for in DPCO, 1987 and as such there is no separate ceiling on expenditure on advertisement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Sales volumes of any company is dependent on various commercial factors as prevailing from time to time.

Power Cooling Towers in Sindri Unit of FCI LTD.

4167. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sindri Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited was sanctioned any fund for renovation of Power House Cooling Towers in the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the fund sanctioned, works carried out and performance of renovated Cooling Towers;

(c) whether the contractor deployed on the jobs was given undue favour by the Management;

(d) if not, whether the contractor has been paid all dues out of terms and no penalty has been imposed for undue delay and bad workmanship, if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the power generation has been threatened at the Sindri Unit for non-availability of sufficient Cooling Towers for which about Rs. 32 lakhs have been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) For renovation of 9 wooden cooling tower cells of the power house of Sindri Unit to be carried out in 2 phases, a contract of Rs. 17.51 lakhs for the first phase for renovation of 5 wooden cooling tower cells, was awarded by the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) in 1991-92 and the performance of renovated cooling towers was found to be satisfactory. In the second phase, a contract for Rs. 14.01 lakhs was awarded in 1992-93 for renovation of 4 cooling towers and the work is likely to be completed by the end of 1993. The contracts were awarded as per procedures laid down for the purpose. The contractor has so far been paid Rs. 16.81 lakhs against the first contract worth Rs. 17.51 lakhs. Extension was granted for completion of the contract of first phase as the delay of 3 months and 20 days was not attributable to the contractor. A payment of Rs. 1.91 lakhs has been made during 1993-94 against work worth Rs. 3 lakhs. However, the floors of one of the cells renovated subsided after the guarantee period was over and the contractor has already repaired the cell free of cost. Floor of another renovated cell subsided after more than 8 months of the expiry of guarantee period. The repair of this cell is also underway free of cost.

(e) Against the total contract value of Rs. 31.52 lakhs, payment of Rs. 18.72 lakhs has only been made so far. Though, power generation of Sindri has been marginally affected due to failure of wooden cooling towers, production in the Sindri Unit has not been affected.

Background Note on Drug Policy

4168. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Background Note on drug policy does not give details on price rise, profitability, non-co-operation of the industry to furnish details as required under the Drug Policy and Drugs Prices Control Order, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it does not give the fact that basic producers, like IDPL, HAL, Standard and others have become sick;

(c) whether it also does not give the fact that for the past three years drug have not been included under price control inspite of price control criteria;

(d) whether it is a fact that this lead to flecing of the consumer by the producers yet this aspect has been ignored in the paper; and

(e) what are the details on each of the above issue and what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e) The reasons for review of Drug Policy, have been given in Para 4 of the Background Note on the Review of Drug Policy, 1986 which has been discussed in the House during the current session.

Exemption/Reduction in Customs Duty on bulk drugs.

4169. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of bulk drugs and finished medicines on which customs duty was reduced or exempted during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) when the duty effect took place in each case;

(c) what are the names of drugs and finished medicines which are outside price control under DPCO, 1987 on which exemption and concession in duty were granted; and

(d) what was the CIF price and selling price